38: Dobell--38 [2] G-2 (1812-13) 1830 Yakut
116, 262, 465, 622

"Many of them actually live, the greater part of the winter, on the inner bark of the yellow pine tree, scraped fine, and mixed with beef or horse's fat. I have been confidently informed, that the Yakut Princes and head men feed their labourers in this manner; giving them besides two miserable suits of clothes, and ten or twelve rubles per annum. This keeps the poor labourers constantly in debt; for the allowance of their masters both for food and raiment is insufficient."

38: Dobell--39-40 G-2 (1812-13) 1830 Yakut
116, 234, 465, 177.46 Russia
636.46

"Those Yakut labourers and herdsmen employed by the Russian inhabitants appeared to me to be very well off: for instance, a common labourer receives two really good and comfortable suits of clothes a year, and forty to fifty roubles in money, besides being very well fed. If a herdsman, and one who undertakes the care of twenty cows, he gets the milk of five or six cows for his trouble; and for the remaining [40] fourteen or fifteen, he is bound only to deliver thirty pounds of butter per cow to the owner during the summer. The skimmed milk, and whatever butter he may make beyond the quantity stipulated, are all his own. In case of accident or death of any of the herd, he is not responsible unless it happens through his want of care. From this statement it will be perceived that a herdsman has considerable advantages; for it must be a very bad cow that will not yield more than thirty pounds of butter during the summer. The Yakuts, however, know how to manage horses better than horned cattle. Their calves are never weaned until they are a year old; nor will a cow give down her milk unless the calf is brought to her; and if the calf dies she will give no more milk. This is a Yakut custom that only prevails in the eastern parts of Siberia."

53:Tokarev and Gurvich E-4 (no date) 1964
RV2 Yakut RV2

field have been of tremendous benefit. Many hundreds of specialists are now at work in the field of agriculture and among them there are quite a few veterinary surgeons and technicians with higher education. Horse-breeding is also being successfully developed.

The income received by collective-farm members is an indication of the considerable progress made in the collective-farm system. For example, in 1955 the Yershov family from the Red Partisan collective farm in the Churapchinskiy Rayon, consisting of four members, completed 22,500 labor units[1] and in the final accounting received 100 poods of grain, 48 poods of meat, 69 poods of oil, more than 30 poods of vegetables, 2 foals and more than 5500 rubles in cash.

For each labor unit completed at the Red Star collective farm in the Aldanskiy Rayon in 1955 the farmer received a payment of 32 rubles and 50 kopeks.

High incomes are also received by cattle breeders in the northern regions. On the Victory collective farm in the Oleneksiy Rayon, 808,000 rubles were spent in payment for labor units in 1954. For each labor unit the payment was 16 rubles in cash and 210 grams of meat; each household received an average income in cash of 11,400 rubles.

Trapping, Fur-Farming and Fishing

There are 22 species of fur-bearing animals in the Yakut ASSR. Trapping is one of the main occupations of the population of northern Yakutiya. On account of the indiscriminate extermination of the reserves of fur in Yakutiya many species of animals such as the otter, sable, and dark-brown fox had almost entirely disappeared by 1917. The Revolution put an end to the extermination of these fur-bearing animals. It also did away with the centuries-old enslavement of the hunting and trapping population in debts by commercial capital. One of the first steps taken by the Soviet authorities was to annul the debts to merchants on the part of the hunters and to prohibit the private buying up and resale of furs. Hunting seasons were introduced and the hunting of declining species of fur-bearing animals was prohibited or restricted. The reconstruction of hunting led to Yakutiya's becoming one of the chief suppliers of furs. Over the last few years the Republic has provided 20-25 percent of the All-Union output of furs. An important part in development of planned hunting has been played by the hunting-trapping stations (POS) set up from 1931 to 1933. These stations instructed hunters and trappers in new techniques of hunting and fitted them out with the necessary equipment. The chief hunting weapon is the small-caliber rifle and carbine. Use is made of imported traps and local self-trapping devices. Use is made of improved self-operating devices which prevent the pelts' being damaged, for example, the "trough-fall." The collective farms equip hunters with means of transportation, tents, stoves, and ammunition. The weapons are usually the hunters' personal property. The advanced trappers in the polar-fox regions have at their disposal 200-300 traps each and 100-150 springtraps of improved design. Many squirrel-hunters have from 400 to 500 fall-snares. During the

[1] The labor unit (trudoden') is the standard of unit of payment on collective farms. It is set at a fixed rate in cash and produce for each farm but may vary from year to year. Different jobs are rated differently as to number of labor units for an actual day's work.—Ed.

233 one polar fox, or for reindeer meat, fat, and hides, according to
432 the agreement; the last case is met with very rarely.
437 The increase in the size of their herds leads rich men to resort to two applications of hired labor: 1) turning part of their herds over
233 to someone else to be looked after for the summer, and 2) hiring
464 herders.
465 [200] In the spring the rich reindeer breeder remains for the most part near the rivers, where he lives a more peaceful settled life
[857] fishing. For the duration of this period he sends his reindeer into the tundra, appointing as substitute master in place of himself one of his children--even though he may be a mere child--to be attached to the herders or to poor relatives, who, it goes without saying, receive nothing for their work. If there are no children or relatives, or if the latter are for some reason unwilling, a hired "master" is found. The family of the latter is provided with flour, tea, and tobacco until autumn, that is, until the return of the herd; to the man (the herder) alone is given half of a thick, dressed hide for the soles of his shoes and one chamois leather for his summer footgear. But he is also given a summer Siberian fur coat; sometimes this is already made, and sometimes he is told to kill such and such a reindeer and to use its hide for clothing. As pay such a hired master receives two or three reindeer for the summer's work. If a reindeer dies from disease or is killed by some wild animal during the pasturing time, the hired master is not held responsible, but is required to present the hide from the reindeer's body and legs to the owner, provided the reindeer did not die of some contagious disease.

In the fall the herd is driven home and handed over to the owner. Men who live in the same choom as the master are chosen to look after the herd in the winter. Usually such herdsmen are clanless bachelors or poor men who have added their few reindeer to the herd of the rich man, and who help out in the pasturing in return for this. The aforementioned persons do not receive any pay besides food and
[736] winter clothing. To a second category of herdsmen belong orphans who have been turned over to their relatives to be brought up, or the children of poor men who are considered the wards of society and who live with the rich man until they come of age. They are likewise supplied with clothing and food, and they receive one or two reindeer for their winter services, depending on the wishes of the master. And finally, there are special hired herdsmen in the proportion of two persons for each thousand reindeer. Under them there is supposed to be a woman subordinate, who is supposed to mend clothing, change the soles on footgear, dress and soften the hide for

233 their clothing, and sometimes even help to look after the reindeer.
464 Such a woman--the assistant of the herdsmen, receives as payment
465 for the winter's work one grown reindeer plus her food and clothing. The herdsmen likewise receive food, winter clothing, hide for the soles of their footgear, and four or five reindeer as their pay.

233 Notwithstanding the fact that the reindeer as a riding animal plays
438 the most important role in the life of the Dolgan and is closely con-
492 nected with the activity of hunting, nevertheless the carrier's trade as a source of revenue has no significance in the economy of the Dolgan. Reindeer are usually employed for transporting the goods of mercantile organizations from Dudinka to Anabar. A 320-kilogram load is placed on one cargo sled. The pay for transporting one pood (sixteen kilograms) as far as Khatanga (one thousand kilometers) is equal to seven rubles, or 140 rubles for one sled. The trip to Khatanga with a cargo sled takes two and one-half months at a minimum. During this time the carrier loses reindeer 1) from starvation (in winter the usual picture along the main route is the skinned corpses of fallen reindeer), and 2) from wolves. When we were passing through the territory one of our contractors was obliged to leave his load on the road, without carrying it to Volosyanka, and he himself was only able to reach his home on someone else's reindeer, on account of the fact that all of his own reindeer had been scattered by the wolves. And this is by no means a rare case. In general, on the road there is very great danger of losing one's reindeer, not only to the wolves, but also in blizzards, during raids made by wild reindeer, and so forth. On the other hand, the transportation of loads for pay has an unhealthy effect on the economy of the Dolgan, for it draws the polar-fox hunters away from their basic occupation. Insufficient supervision on the part of the regional authorities has compelled the population, to their detriment, to undertake the transportation of loads, notwithstanding the very convenient combination of waterways and the possibility of transporting goods along these routes. (1)

114 1. These questions [of reindeer transportation of goods--Analyst] were touched on at one time by us in print: Sovetskaia etnografiia, 1931, No. III-IV, in the article "Poezdka k dolganam" [A Trip to the Dolgan].

178 As long as the transportation problem remains unsolved the native
439 carriers with their reindeer will do great harm to the population; on